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0308.67558

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re PCT Patent Application)
)
Applicant: Peltason et al.)
)
Serial No. 10/657,935)
)
Filed: September 8, 2003)
)
For: WATER SOFTENER)
MANIFOLD RETAINER)
ASSEMBLY)
)
Art Unit: 1723)
)
Control No.:)
)
Examiner: Not assigned)

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date

2/25/04
Date

[Signature]
Registration No. 21,497
Attorney for Applicants

REQUEST FOR A REFUND TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 07-2069

Mail Stop 16
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22213-1450

Sir:

The above-identified application was filed on September 8, 2003 with a signed Declaration (see copies of transmittal, postcard, and Declaration enclosed). On December 1, 2003, a Notice of Missing Parts was mailed indicating that the Declaration was missing and a fee of \$130 would be assessed for late filing. In response, on December 9, 2003, Applicant submitted that the Declaration was filed with the original application filing, provided the above evidence, and included another copy of the executed Declaration. Instead of accepting

Adjustment date: 03/05/2004 SDIRETA2
01/22/2004 UEDUVIVE 00000001 072069 10657935
01 FC:1031 130.00 CR

0321.66867PCT

Serial No. PCT/US03/27194

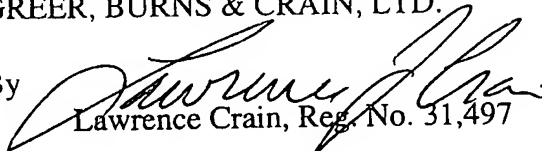
that the Declaration was timely filed, the PTO incorrectly charged Deposit Account 07-2069 for \$130 as a missing parts fee.

Applicants therefore request a refund in the **total amount of \$130.00** which reflects the aforementioned erroneous deposit account charge for the late filing fee. We request that **\$130.00** be credited to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. Should there be any questions regarding this Request for a Refund, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By


Lawrence Crain, Reg. No. 31,497

February 25, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315

K:\RobE\DepAcct\Van_2004\Refnd_Req_67558.doc

16179 U.S. PTO
09/08/03

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Mail Stop Patent Application
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PATENT APPLICATION
Date: September 8, 2003
File No. 0308.67558

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): Keith Peltason et al.

September 8, 2003
Date

Express Mail Label No.: EV 032697818US

For: WATER SOFTENER MANIFOLD RETAINER ASSEMBLY

Enclosed are:

- (X) 18 pages of specification, including 20 claims and an abstract.
- (X) an executed oath or declaration, with power of attorney.
- () an unexecuted oath or declaration, with power of attorney.
- (X) 4 sheet(s) of informal drawing(s).
- () sheet(s) of formal drawings(s).
- (X) Assignment(s) of the invention to USF Consumer & Commercial WaterGroup, Inc. and Assignment Cover Sheet.
- (X) A check in the amount of \$ 40.00 to cover the fee for recording the assignment(s).
- () Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 and cited references.
- () Claim for Priority and Priority Document.

Fee Calculation For Claims As Filed

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|------------------|------------------------------|
| a) Basic Fee | | | | | | \$ 750.00 |
| b) Independent Claims | <u>2</u> | - | <u>3</u> | = | <u>0</u> | x \$ 84.00 = \$ <u>0</u> |
| c) Total Claims | <u>20</u> | - | <u>20</u> | = | <u>0</u> | x \$ 18.00 = \$ <u>0</u> |
| d) Fee for Multiple Dependent Claims | | | | | | \$ 280.00 = \$ <u> </u> |
| | | | | | Total Filing Fee | <u>\$ 750.00</u> |
- () Applicant(s) qualifies as a Small Entity, reducing Filing Fee by half to \$
 - (X) A check in the amount of \$ 750.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
 - () Charge \$ to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.
 - () Other
 - () The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
Customer Number 24978

By:

Lawrence J. Crain

Registration No. 31,497

**Fee History
Query**

Revenue Accounting and Management

Name/Number: 10657935

Total Records Found: 3

Start Date: Any Date

End Date: Any Date

Accounting Date	Sequence Num.	Tran Type	Fee Code	Fee Amount	Mailroom Date	Payment Method
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09/16/2003	00000061	<u>1</u>	<u>8021</u>	\$40.00	09/08/2003	CK
01/22/2004	00000002	<u>1</u>	<u>1051</u>	\$130.00	12/12/2003	DA 072069



United States
Patent and
Trademark Office



Deposit Account Statement

Requested Statement Month: January 2004
 Deposit Account Number: 072069
 Name: GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.
 Attention: MR. ROGER GREER
 Address: 300 S. WACKER DRIVE 25TH FLOOR
 City: CHICAGO
 State: IL
 Zip: 60606

DATE	SEQ	POSTING REF TXT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NBR	FEE CODE	AMT	BAL
01/02	24	10744192		9204	-\$54.00	\$6,208.50
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01/06	4	09726752	115.64887	1251	\$110.00	\$5,598.50
01/06	326	PCT/US03/17379	0212.66341PCT	1606	\$260.00	\$5,338.50
01/07	114	78348318	0909.68838	7001	\$335.00	\$5,003.50
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01/22	464	29186127	220668098	8007	\$120.00	\$1,525.50

01/22 466 29186126	220668097	8007	\$120.00	\$1,405.50
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01/28 34 PAYMENT		9203	-\$5,000.00	\$5,470.50
01/28 58 10031182		9204	-\$665.00	\$6,135.50
01/29 16 5433063		9204	-\$2,090.00	\$8,225.50
01/29 57 6023118		2554	\$65.00	\$8,160.50
01/29 99 09751571	2500.65080	1201	\$4.00	\$8,156.50
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01/30 454 10469390	1503.68285	2617	\$65.00	\$7,169.50
01/30 455 10469390	1503.68285	1618	\$130.00	\$7,039.50

START	SUM OF	SUM OF	END
BALANCE	CHARGES	REPLENISH	BALANCE
\$6,154.50	\$7,474.00	\$8,359.00	\$7,039.50

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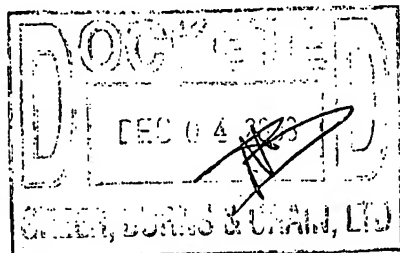


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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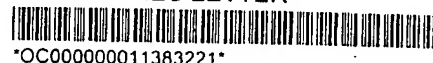
APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
10/657,935	09/08/2003	Keith Peltason	0308.67558

24978
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN
300 S WACKER DR
25TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606



CONFIRMATION NO. 1598

FORMALITIES LETTER



OC000000011383221

Date Mailed: 12/01/2003

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

Due 2-2-04

Items Required To Avoid Abandonment:

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The oath or declaration is missing.
A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date, is required.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(e) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

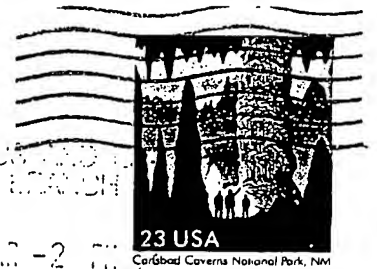
Total additional fee(s) required for this application is \$130 for a Large Entity

- \$130 Late oath or declaration Surcharge.

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

03 DEC -4 AM 9:52
RECEIVED

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*



GREER, BURNS & CRAIG, LTD.
03 SEP 15 AM 8:55

GREER, BURNS & CRAIG, LTD.
25th FLOOR
300 S. Wacker Dr.
Chicago, IL 60606

22141 U.S. PTO
10/657935
09/08/03

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STATUS AND ENTITY
SEARCH

10/15/03-2 EV 0307

In re Patent Application of
Keith Peltason et al.

For: WATER SOFTENER MANIFOLD RETAINER...

Patent Application

File No. 0308.67558

LJC:ved

September 8, 2003

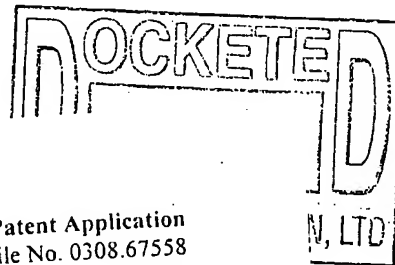
Enclosed is a Transmittal in duplicate; Patent application including 18 pages of spec & 20 claims; 4 sheets of informal drawings; Check for \$750.00 (Filing Fee, Large Entity); Executed Declaration and power of attorney; Executed Assignment; Assignment Recordation cover sheet w/ check for \$40.00; and Certificate of Express Mail No. EV 032697818US.

Commissioner for Patents

Please acknowledge receipt of the above-identified documents by applying the Patent and Trademark Office receipt hereto and mailing this card.

Respectfully,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.



In re Patent Application of
Keith Peltason et al.

For: WATER SOFTENER MANIFOLD RETAINER...

Patent Application

File No. 0308.67558

LJC:ved

September 8, 2003

Enclosed is a Transmittal in duplicate; Patent application including 18 pages of spec & 20 claims; 4 sheets of informal drawings; Check for \$750.00 (Filing Fee, Large Entity); Executed Declaration and power of attorney; Executed Assignment; Assignment Recordation cover sheet w/ check for \$40.00; and Certificate of Express Mail No. EV 032697818US.

Commissioner for Patents

Please acknowledge receipt of the above-identified documents by applying the Patent and Trademark Office receipt hereto and mailing this card.

Respectfully,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Mail Stop Patent Application
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STANDARD PATENT APPLICATION
FILED

3000-2 PATENT APPLICATION
Date: September 8, 2003
File No. 0308.67558

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of
Inventor(s): Keith Peltason et al.

September 8, 2003
Date

David L. Quinn
Express Mail Label No.: EV 032697818US

For: WATER SOFTENER MANIFOLD RETAINER ASSEMBLY

Enclosed are:

- (X) 18 pages of specification, including 20 claims and an abstract.
- (X) an executed oath or declaration, with power of attorney.
- () an unexecuted oath or declaration, with power of attorney.
- (X) 4 sheet(s) of informal drawing(s).
- () sheet(s) of formal drawings(s).
- (X) Assignment(s) of the invention to USF Consumer & Commercial WaterGroup, Inc. and Assignment Cover Sheet.
- (X) A check in the amount of \$ 40.00 to cover the fee for recording the assignment(s).
- () Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 and cited references.
- () Claim for Priority and Priority Document.

Fee Calculation For Claims As Filed

a) Basic Fee						\$ 750.00
b) Independent Claims	<u>2</u>	-	<u>3</u>	=	<u>0</u>	x \$ 84.00 = \$ <u>0</u>
c) Total Claims	<u>20</u>	-	<u>20</u>	=	<u>0</u>	x \$ 18.00 = \$ <u>0</u>
d) Fee for Multiple Dependent Claims						\$ 280.00 = \$ <u> </u>

Total Filing Fee \$ 750.00

- () Applicant(s) qualifies as a Small Entity, reducing Filing Fee by half to \$
- (X) A check in the amount of \$ 750.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- () Charge \$ to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.
- () Other
- () The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
Customer Number 24978

K:\030867558\up\TRANS-PAT.doc

By: *Lawrence J. Crain*

Lawrence J. Crain
Registration No. 31,497

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

PATENT

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

That my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name:

That I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

WATER SOFTENER MANIFOLD RETAINER ASSEMBLYthe specification of which
(check one)☒ is attached hereto.☐ was filed on _____ as
Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

That I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

That I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

That I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 and §172 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)**Priority Claimed**

(Number) _____	(Country) _____	(Day/Month/Year) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			Yes No
(Number) _____	(Country) _____	(Day/Month/Year) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			Yes No
(Number) _____	Country _____	(Day/Month/Year) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			Yes No

That I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

United States Application(s)

(Appl. Ser.No.) _____	(Filing Date) _____	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned) _____
(Appl. Ser.No.) _____	(Filing Date) _____	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned) _____

That all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD., Suite 2500, 300 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Telephone No. (312) 360-0080:

Customer No. 24978

<u>Attorney</u>	<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Attorney</u>	<u>Reg. No.</u>
Roger D. Greer	26,174	Carole A. Mickelson	30,778
Patrick G. Burns	29,367	Brittany C. MacDonald	44,159
Lawrence J. Crain	31,497	Arik B. Ranson	43,874
Steven P. Fallon	35,132	Thomas R. Fitzsimons	40,607
Paul G. Juettner	30,270	Josh Snider	47,954
Thomas R. Juettner	16,158	Joe Fox	41,760
James K. Folker	37,538	Philip M. Kolehmainen	22,992
Laura R. Wanek	53,737	Charles C. Claunch	51,221

I hereby grant the above-named attorneys the right to insert the Application Serial Number in the appropriate place on this document, once such number has been assigned from the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

Full name of sole or one
joint inventor:

Keith Peltason

Inventor's signature:

Keith Peltason

Date:

9/5/03

Residence and Post Office
Address:

43 Wisteria Lane, Apt. 3731

Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

Citizenship:

United States

Full name of sole or one
joint inventor:

Lonnie Webb

Inventor's signature:

Lonnie Webb

Date:

9/5/03

Residence and Post Office
Address:

4995 Bayfield Drive

Waterford, Wisconsin 53185

Citizenship:

United States

Address for Correspondence:

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.
Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Customer No. 24978